

Return to Work after Exposure Policy

Over the past couple of weeks, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School has seen community-acquired cases of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that:

“In the setting of community transmission, all Healthcare Providers (HCP) are at some risk for exposure to COVID-19, whether in the workplace or in the community.” HCP is Healthcare Provider. Any employee who comes to Rutgers Health Robert Wood Johnson Medical School clinical practice sites to work will be considered an HCP.

Due to the presence of community-acquired cases in the State of New Jersey, Rutgers Health and RWJBarnabas Health have consulted with the NJ Department of Health. We have determined that it is appropriate to have healthcare providers with all levels of exposure to COVID-19 to continue to work if **there is no evidence of even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19**. These staff members will be required to wear a surgical mask for 14 days following exposure. The mask will protect patients and staff who are in close proximity to the exposed individual in case the healthcare provider later develops symptoms of COVID-19.

To protect our patients and employees, healthcare providers with known COVID-19 exposure will be required to self-monitor with supervision through **Employee Health Services in the Department of Medicine in New Brunswick at 732-235-6559**. Healthcare providers that are under the self-monitoring requirement, will record their temperature and symptoms through REHS as directed by Employee Health. Symptom monitor will be recorded daily for fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat and prior to reporting for work.

Additional direction for employees with a known exposure to COVID-19:

If you have any signs or symptoms of illness (fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath), you should not report to work. You should follow your normal process for any sick calls by notifying your manager or department. **Also, you must inform Employee Health of your symptoms at (732) 235-6559.**

Please note that if you are taking medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen, you should disclose that when you report.

Any individual health concerns should be directed to your manager, department supervisor, or Department Chair.

As always, any Rutgers Health employee who is ill should not report to work.